



The President's Daily Brief

8 July 1971

46



~~*Top Secret*~~

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 July 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sirik Matak's thoughts on developments in Cambodia are presented on *Page 1*.



50X1

The prospects of a serious famine in East Pakistan are increasing. (*Page 3*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

During a wide-ranging conversation with Ambassador Swank on 6 July, Sirik Matak made the following comments and observations:

--He intends to maintain the Cambodian Army at its current 220,000-man ceiling. He believes that Lon Nol's plans to enlarge the army are too ambitious and cannot be realized.

--His relations with Lon Nol remain good, and he consults the prime minister regularly on important policy decisions. He added, however, that Lon Nol's efforts to assert his authority on military matters on which he is inadequately briefed causes some "inconvenience."

--He credits First Deputy Prime Minister In Tam with undisguised political ambitions, and feels that he is out of tune with the rest of the cabinet. Matak is worried that if In Tam resigns, he will join the opposition in the assembly.

--He does not believe that the time is ripe for general negotiations with the Communists, and even less for separate negotiations affecting Cambodia. He attached no particular importance to former prime minister Son Sann's expected return from Paris this week.

Since last August Son Sann has been in Paris, where he has made efforts to establish unofficial contacts with some of Sihanouk's supporters.

50X1

Egyptian



50X1



50X1

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EAST PAKISTAN

Estimates of rice production in East Pakistan during the crop year that ended last month have been revised downward to about 11 million tons, compared with 12 million tons in the previous year. Projections for the crop year now beginning are for only 9.5 million tons, leaving a food deficit of about 3.4 million tons.

Even if imports of this magnitude could be arranged, it would be virtually impossible to get them to the food deficit areas of East Pakistan. Port storage facilities are already full because continuing disruptions of the internal transport system have hampered movement of food grains to the interior. The ports themselves are operating far below capacity.

Much of the food grain would have to be distributed free rather than through regular commercial channels because of the limited purchasing power in the countryside. Most factories and commercial establishments are still shut down, and the rural works program, which normally employs several million landless laborers, has been interrupted.

The chairman of the government's food relief committee has privately admitted "there will be a famine," although the government officially discounts this possibility. East Pakistani civil officials are too cowed by the army to differ publicly with the military governor and, as a consequence, little is being done to avert the famine.

Top Secret